(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has exempted road projects from limiting the number of bidders who can be pre-qualified, as required under clause 3.5.2 of the Model Request for Qualification (RFQ), for healthy competition among larger number of eligible applicants who have the requisite experience and capacity to execute road projects.

Widening of Highways in Uttar Pradesh

1313. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the highways in Uttar Pradesh are in bad conditions particularly old GT Road running between Delhi and Kanpur;

(b) what has been done by Government to widen the existing GT Road and also remove the encroachments from both the sides; and

(c) how much money was sanctioned to widen existing highways in Uttar Pradesh and how many Kms. have been added as new highway, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) All National Highways in Uttar Pradesh are being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

(b) Existing GT Road (Delhi to Kanpur, NH-91) is already two laned. Further, Ghaziabad to Aligarh section is included for 4/6 laning under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase III. Bids for 4 laning were invited and two valid bids have been received and are under process for award. Further, Aligarh to Kanpur section has been identified for development to two lane with paved shoulder under NHDP Phase IVA on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis and the work of preparation of feasibility study has been taken up. Encroachment on both sides of NH-91 are being removed on regular interval with the help of District Administration and Police force, in accordance with relevant provisions of law.

(c) In the State of Uttar Pradesh, about Rs.376.56 crore was sanctioned to widen the existing highways and 1085 kms of New National Highways have been added during last three years.

Delay in NH projects

1314. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of the National Highway projects across the country are falling behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to speed up the projects and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) 150 numbers of National Highway Projects under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) as well as 32 number of projects with State PWD each costing more than Rs. 5.00 crore are running behind schedule. The main reasons for delay in construction of National Highway projects are delays due to land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining forest/environment clearances, clearance for rail over bridges, poor performance of contractors, budgetary constraints etc.

(c) Steps taken for expeditious implementation of the projects includes; regular monitoring at various level, appointment of nodal officer in each State for coordinating land acquisition, shifting of utilities and obtaining various clearances, simplification of process of issue of notification for land acquisition, appointment of an officer of Railways in National Highway Authority of India to coordinate with Railways, grant of advances to the Contractors and punitive action against the non-performing Contractors.

Delay in NH projects

1315. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in National Highways projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to expedite the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the projects are running behind schedule. The main reasons for delay in construction of National Highway projects are delays due to land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining forest/ environment clearances, clearance for rail over bridges, poor performance of contractors, budgetary constraints etc.

(c) Action taken for expeditious implementation of the projects includes; regular monitoring at various level, appointment of nodal officer in each State for coordinating land acquisition, shifting of utilities and obtaining various clearances, simplification of process of issue of notification for land acquisition, appointment of an officer of Railways in National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Railways, grant of advances to the Contractors and punitive action against the non-performing Contractors.

Widening of NH-24

1316. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which National Highway - 24 linking Delhi with Uttar Pradesh is proposed to be widened so as to help smooth movement of traffic in and around Delhi during 2010 Commonwealth Games, to be held in Delhi; and